

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: CGT CONGRESS ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

REF: BA-5049

SUMMARY. CGT CONGRESS REELECTED SEC GEN ROMERO BUT REPLACED FIVE MEMBERS WHO WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO 62 ORGANIZATIONS' STRONGMAN MIGUEL. RESULT WAS REESTABLISHMENT MIGUEL AS LABOR KINGPIN. ROMERO'S REELECTION DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN SEMBLANCE TRADE UNION UNITY, AND SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE HE MAY RESIGN AFTER SHORT TIME IN OFFICE. CONGRESS VOICED STRONG SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT ISABEL PERON, SOCIAL PACT, AND MILITARY. ACTION REQUESTED: PASS SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE MCLELLAN, AFL-CIO. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE, HEATED DISCUSSIONS WITHIN 62 ORGANIZATIONS AND BETWEEN 62 ORGANIZATIONS AND CGT, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON PRESENTATION SINGLE SLATE OF CANDIDATES TO CGT CONGRESS. SEC GEN ROMERO, WHO MISSED CONGRESS DUE TO HOSPITALITY-
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ZATION JUNE 10, REPORTEDLY FOR LOW BLOOD PRESSURE-HEART CON-

DITION BROUGHT ABOUT BY "EXCITEMENT AND AGITATION", WAS RE-ELECTED. HOWEVER, UOM SEC GEN LORENZO MIGUEL DOMINATED SELECTION OF CANDIDATES. ALL THOSE WHOM MIGUEL OPPOSED (SUBSEC GEN RAVITTI, TRADE UNION SECRETARY CALACE, PRESS SECRETARY BARRIONUEVO, AND MEMBERS BALDASSINI AND ESQUERRA) WERE DUMPED. ROMERO WAS REELECTED ONLY AT THE SUFFERANCE OF MIGUEL IN ORDER TO PRESERVE TRADE UNION UNITY. OUTGOING PRESS SECRETARY BARRIONUEVO TOLD LABATT THAT REPLACED OFFICERS HAD FOUGHT "AS LONG AND AS HARD AS POSSIBLE, BUT THAT MIGUEL HAD ALL THE HORSE-POWER". AS RESULT OF CHANGES, CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD IS NOW 100 PERCENT PERONIST.

2. CGT SECRETARIAT NOW COMPOSED OF FOLLOWING:

SEC GEN ADELINO ROMERO, TEXTILE WORKERS UNION (AOT) -REELECTED;
SUBSEC GEN SEGUNDO PALMA, CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (UOCRA) -REPLACED RAVITTI, RAILWAY WORKERS (UF);
FINANCE SECRETARY ABELARDO ARCE, MILK WORKERS UNION (ATILRA) -REELECTED;
ASSISTANT FINANCE SECRETARY MAXIMIANO CASTILLO, GLASS WORKERS UNION (SOIVARA) - REELECTED;
TRADE UNION AND INTERIOR SECRETARY ALBERTO CAMPOS, METAL WORKERS (UOM) - REPLACED CALACE, HEALTH WORKERS (FATSA);
ASSISTANT TRADE UNION AND INTERIOR SECRETARY JOSE BAEZ, SOCIAL SECURITY WORKERS - REPLACED ALBERTO CAMPOS;
PRESS SECRETARY ADALBERTO WIMER, LIGHT AND POWER WORKERS (FATLYF) - REPLACED BARRIONUEVO, NOODLE WORKERS (FATIFA);
NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (VOCAL) ARE: ESTEBAN ROLANDO, RAILWAY WORKERS (UF); RAMON ELORZA, GASTRONOMIC WORKERS (UTGRA); PEDRO EUGENIO ALVAREZ, PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT WORKERS (SUTEP); AND HECTOR CHACON, STATE PETROLEUM WORKERS (SUPE), WHO FILLED EXISTING VACANCY.

3. EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS APPROVED CHANGE IN CGT STATUTES PERMITTING 4-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE, BUT DID NOT ACCEPT CHANGE WHICH WOULD HAVE PERMITTED CGT TO INTERVENE NATIONAL UNIONS. ORDINARY CONGRESS WAS UNEVENTFUL AS ALL NEGOTIATING TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO CONGRESS' OPENING. APART FROM ELECTING OFFICERS, CONGRESS APPROVED RESOLUTION WHICH PROMISED LABOR'S UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT ISABEL PERON AND FOR SOCIAL PACT. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, BOTH RESOLUTION AND CONGRESS PRESIDENT RAVITTI EXTOLLED VIRTUES OF MILITARY, RESOLUTION STATED THAT MILITARY, WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"SHARES WITH LABOR THE SAME SUFFERINGS, ASPIRATIONS AND IDEALS," WAS ACCOMPANYING LABOR IN ITS MARCH TO THE FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: CGT CONGRESS MARKS RE-EMERGENCE LORENZO MIGUEL AS LABOR KINGPIN. ALTHOUGH A PROTEGE OF PERON, MIGUEL LOST CONSIDERABLE POWER AND INFLUENCE DURING LATTER MONTHS OF PERON'S LIFE AS PERON EXERCISED HIS TIME-HONORED TACTIC OF CUTTING DOWN ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO BECAME TOO POWERFUL. MIGUEL RE-ASSUMED HIS

POSITION, WHICH PROBABLY RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO HIM AS HEAD OF BOTH THE MOST POWERFUL UNION AND THE PERONIST LABOR ARM, 62 ORGANIZATIONS. SEVERAL KNOWLEDGEABLE LABOR SOURCES TOLD LABATT THAT RETENTION ROMERO WAS FOR TACTICAL PURPOSES ONLY, AND THAT "YOU SHOULD NOT BE SURPGVSED IF ROMERO RESIGNS WITHIN A FEW MONTHS". ALL STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE HIGHLY INARTICULATE, "UNINTELLIGENT" SUBSEC GEN PALMA WOULD NOT REPLACE ROMERO BUT THAT ANOTHER, POSSIBLY BAEZ, WOULD DO SO. ROMERO'S FUTURE RESIGNATION IS CERTAINLY POSSIBLE; HOWEVER, HE MAINTAINS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL THE NEW OFFICERS AND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RECENT POWER STRUGGLE, WITH LORENZO MIGUEL. THEREFORE, THERE IS NO REASON TO BE PESSIMISTIC THAT THE CGT WILL NOT WORK WELL INTERNALLY. IF IT DOES, ROMERO COULD CONTINUE IN OFFICE.

5. ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

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